

# North River Communities Neighborhood Plan

## Stormwater and Flooding Resource Guide

Several programs exist to assist homeowners who are dealing with stormwater issues and flooding. The following guide describes some of these programs and identifies resources that individual homeowners and business owners, neighborhood groups, and community-wide coalitions can access for assistance. Additional programs and resources, subject to the availability of grants and other funding, are likely to be available in the future, so working with aldermanic offices, the City of Chicago, and non-governmental partners will be key to identifying new forms of assistance going forward. Some of the recommendations in the Rivers, Parks, and Trails chapter of this plan may also be eligible for funding under some of these programs.

### FEMA Programs

Following a presidentially declared disaster, local residents, businesses, and governments are eligible for federal relief programs through FEMA's Individual Assistance (IA) grant program. The FEMA IA grant program primarily consists of one-time grants to residents and businesses for immediate relief and structural repairs and are available to all residents regardless of income. If a resident, homeowner, or business owner experiences damages in excess of what their insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) or IA grant will cover, they may be eligible for a low-interest, long-term disaster loan through the Small Business Administration. These loans are intended to be a last resort, and are only eligible for demonstrated needs that are not covered by other relief programs.

Local governments, such as the City of Chicago, can also access disaster relief through FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) grant program. This program provides grant assistance, which can be used to repair, replace, or restore public facilities damaged in the disaster. Preliminary damage assessment reports are required in order for a community to qualify for FEMA Public Assistance following a major disaster declaration. In Chicago, the Office of Emergency Management & Communications (OEMC) conducts a damage assessment and then provides that information to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA).

### Chi-Cal Rivers Fund

The Chi-Cal Rivers Fund offers grant funding for on-the-ground projects that support green stormwater infrastructure, habitat enhancement, and public-use improvements within waterways in Chicago and the Calumet region. This annually funding source awards grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$300,000. Eligible applicants include States, local governments, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions.

*Stormwater; Open Space/Recreation; Restoration*



### [ComEd Green Region Program](#)

In partnership with Openlands, ComEd provides grants of up to \$10,000 for open space projects focused on planning, acquisition, and improvements to local parks, natural areas, and recreation amenities. Successful projects increase public access to open space and encourage public engagement. Eligible applicants include public agencies in ComEd's service area.

*Open Space/Recreation*

### [Five Star & Urban Waters Restoration Program](#)

This grant program seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by providing financial assistance to diverse local partnerships in underserved communities focused on improving water quality, watersheds and the species and habitats they support. Project examples include wetland and riparian restoration, wildlife conservation, community tree canopy enhancement, water quality monitoring, and stormwater management, as well as environmental outreach, education, and training. The program includes several source of funding based on geographic location. Eligible applicants include States, local governments, non-profit 501(c) organizations, and educational institutions. Competitive projects include a 1:1 match ratio and should engage a diverse group of community partners.

*Stormwater; Restoration*

### [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative](#)

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) uses a grant program to work with non-federal partners to help implement projects that protect and restore the Great Lakes region. Funds are guided by the GLRI Action Plan II and including the cleanup of Great Lakes Areas of Concern, prevention and control of invasive species, reduction of runoff that contributes to algal blooms (via green infrastructure), and habitat restoration to protect native species. GLRI is helping to fund the riparian restoration project along the North Shore Channel undertaken by the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers.

*Stormwater; Restoration*

### [HUD Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\) Program](#)

Projects can incorporate green infrastructure into their design and construction. The City of Chicago used CDBG funding to construct a green roof on the Chicago Cultural Center in downtown Chicago.

### [Land and Water Conservation Fund \(IDNR\)](#)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund provides matching grants for the acquisition of land to develop public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. While currently suspended, IDNR's OSLAD and PARC grant programs, could be available in the future to support developing new recreational facilities.

*Open Space/Recreation*



### **Green Infrastructure Projects (MWRD)**

This program assists local communities and agencies to address local drainage problems through the installation of green infrastructure. Eligible local projects range from shovel-ready to conceptual designs. The green infrastructure program has funded schoolyard retrofits through the Spaces to Grow initiative with Chicago Public Schools. MWRD held the first call for projects in summer 2017; a subsequent call may be available in future years.

*Stormwater*

### **Section 206: Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration (USACE)**

This program carries out aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection projects that may include modification of the hydrology in and along waterways, lakes, ponds, wetlands, and riparian areas. Eligible applicants include local governments, State Authorized Agencies, and non-profit organizations.

*Restoration*

### **Section 22: Planning Assistance to States and Tribes (USACE)**

This program provides technical planning assistance to local governments to manage their water and related land resources. Studies analyze existing data for planning purposes using standard engineering techniques and include some data collection as needed. Requests for studies are assessed annually. The cost of the study is shared 50% federal and 50% non-federal basis, which can be in the form of in-kind services.

*Stormwater, Restoration*

### **Sustain our Great Lakes**

This grant program helps fund projects that restore aquatic connectivity, stream, riparian, wetland, and coastal habitat. Projects may include green stormwater infrastructure and wetland and streambank restoration. In addition to enhancing the aquatic habitat of water bodies, eligible projects can provide additional benefits such as flood mitigation. Eligible applicants include states, local governments, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations.

*Stormwater, Restoration*

### **Urban Waters Small Grants Program**

This grant program is administered by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help communities restore urban water resources and promote community and economic revitalization. Projects should mitigate urban runoff pollution, provide additional community benefits, actively engage underserved communities, and foster partnerships. Eligible applicants include states, local governments, institutes of higher learning, and public or private nonprofit organizations.

*Stormwater, Restoration*

